

# Joseph W. Folk, a Possible Presidential "Dark Horse," And the Conditions Which May Bring Him to the Front

ALL the Democratic national convention to be held in St. Louis July 6 present to the country as its candidate for the presidency what is known politically as a "dark horse." That appears to be the opinion in some quarters, and the persons who hold that opinion go further and state that if the convention should please to accept either of the two men now most prominently mentioned in connection with the nomination the standard bearer of the Democracy will be Joseph W. Folk, the present circuit attorney of St. Louis.

There is a strong feeling among the admirers of Mr. Folk that such an eventuality is not impossible. They argue in this wise: William R. Hearst and Judge Alton B. Parker, the two most prominent candidates, have their forces so aggressively aligned that the fight is now as much a struggle to prevent the nomination of the other as it is a contest for the nomination itself. This is precisely the condition which makes a "dark horse" a possibility, for if the present lines are maintained, unless either Parker or Hearst should succeed in capturing two-thirds of the total membership of the convention (assuming that the two-thirds rule, which has been in vogue for seventy-two years, shall be continued), neither can win, inasmuch as their delegates will refuse to be swayed to the support of the leading opponent of their favorite. But—and it is this "but" upon which Folk's friends are banking—these same delegates, feeling that their man cannot be named and being unwilling to surrender unconditionally, might not be averse to throwing their support to a third person whose candidacy has never been in evidence and who for that reason has not had the opportunity to arouse the antagonisms which are inevitable in a spirited fight for delegates, such as has been in progress for some time between Hearst and Parker. Of course any "dark horse" must measure up to the standard of national leadership. He must be a man of irreproachable character, he must have done something in a public way to cause him to be fairly well and favorably known throughout the country, he

must be inflexible of purpose and he should be a good campaigner. Joseph W. Folk, according to his friends, responds affirmatively to every one of these requirements, and they cite his career in support of their confidence.

"Dark horses" have not often won in national conventions, but they have won; in fact, it has seldom occurred that the leading candidate—that is to say, the candidate who is regarded as the leading one by the masses—has captured a presidential nomination. Garfield was a Sherman delegate to the convention of 1880, at which ex-President Grant had held to the end 308 votes, while Blaine had nearly enough strength to give him the nomination. But John Sherman held the balance of power between the two, and, while neither the Blaine nor Sherman men preferred to have Garfield nominated, they rallied to his support after he had received a single vote through many ballots, and he was nominated, or, rather, from the standpoint of anti-Grant men, Grant was beaten. This is very much the condition that the Folk men are anticipating at the St. Louis Democratic convention this year. William J. Bryan was, comparatively speaking, a "dark horse" in 1896, having attended the convention at the head of a contesting delegation. McKinley's nomination the same year was regarded as a foregone conclusion, and the same was true of the renomination in 1900 of the rivals of four years before.

Folk's career as circuit attorney of St. Louis, in which he demonstrated his fearlessness and ability by sending to prison or to exile in foreign lands many men, some of them millionaires, who had up to that time been regarded as beyond the reach of the law, although their operations as hoodlums, lobbyists and bribers were known of all men, is familiar to newspaper readers everywhere. During the present year, when Mr. Folk announced that he would be a candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination and would appeal directly to the voters, it was thought that he had at last set foot upon the road which would lead to his Waterloo. This impression appeared to be confirmed when the St. Louis primaries went overwhelmingly against the young circuit attorney. But Folk realized that St. Louis is not the state of Missouri,



JOSEPH W. FOLK.

and he redoubled his efforts, knowing that the malign influences which had operated to give him a temporary setback there would not be operative in the country districts or in the smaller cities. The result demonstrated that he had not misjudged the temper of the people, for the complete returns from

July 19. But the people who believe in Folk's destiny declare that he will not be named for governor of Missouri for the reason that nearly two weeks earlier he will have been nominated for the presidency of the United States.

That the possibility of Folk's nomination has suggested itself to members of the national house of representatives is shown by the concluding paragraph of a speech delivered in debate by Congressman W. Bourke Cockran of New York. He said:

If the issue is the running down of hoodlums we may go to Missouri for our prosecutor.

And if from the whirlwind of national politics Folk should emerge as the standard bearer of the Democracy he would be the youngest man ever selected by one of the great parties as its candidate for the presidency. No man under the age of thirty-five may become the chief executive of the United States, and Mr. Folk will not be thirty-five until Oct. 28 of this year. He is a native of Tennessee, having been born in Brownsville. After graduating at Vanderbilt university, where he studied law, he took up the practice of his profession in his own state about twelve years ago. At the outset he did not contemplate the criminal branch of his chosen pursuit, having a leaning to the civil side. In this connection it may be stated that after his election as circuit attorney of St. Louis and when the all important bribery cases awaited his prosecution, he found it necessary for a time to devote as much as fifteen hours a day to familiarizing himself with the criminal statutes. Mr. Folk has not long been identified with St. Louis even as a citizen. He first came into prominence there as president of the Jefferson club.

It was only after repeated urging, his friends point out, that he was prevailed upon to enter the campaign as a candidate for the circuit attorneyship. In regard to his candidacy for governor, he has stated that his desire to be at the head of political affairs in his own state is not due to personal ambition, but to the fact that he thinks it necessary to dominate affairs completely in order to remedy evils which still exist in the state. As circuit attorney of St. Louis he realizes that he has done something, but it is his opinion

that as chief executive of the state he could accomplish much more. The charge brought against him in the campaign looking up to the primaries that he is no Democrat is vehemently denied by himself and his friends. The latter say, however, that he puts right and justice above politics, and in a speech made in prosecuting one of the bribery cases he gave voice to this utterance: "A man who violates the law is not a Democrat; he is not a Republican. He is a criminal."

In regard to the suggestion that he be a candidate for the vice presidency, Mr. Folk has stated that he would not entertain the idea for a moment. He announced himself as follows:

"Missouri has a candidate for the presidency in Francis M. Cockrell, the grand old man of the Missouri Democracy, and I would not permit my name to be used in any way to embarrass his chances. This would be sufficient reason for me to decline absolutely to be considered in that connection."

"Furthermore, I consider the work to be done as governor of Missouri of more importance than anything I could accomplish in any other position. I would rather be governor of Missouri just now than vice president of the United States."

But he has said nothing about how he would receive the proffer of a nomination for the presidency. His intimates believe that should a majority of the delegates of the convention elect him he would accept and inaugurate a whirlwind campaign.

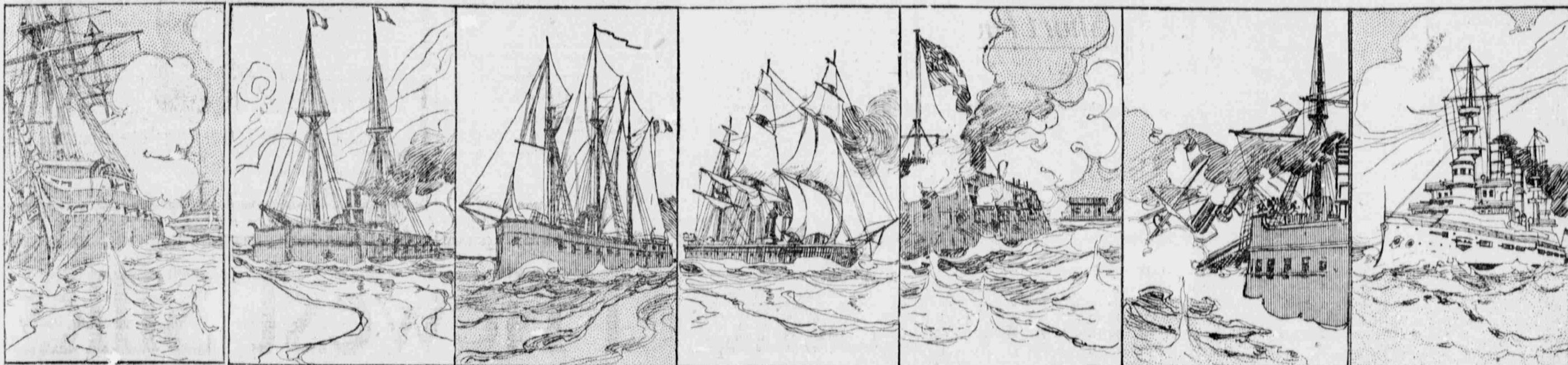
In appearance Mr. Folk is prepossessing. He is about five feet nine inches in height and weighs in the neighborhood of 180 pounds. His face wears a rather serious expression, and his manner is quiet at all times. He possesses great magnetism.

WILLIAM L. COCKERILL.

## SIAM'S SACRED ELEPHANTS.

Curious ceremonies are witnessed in Siam when one of the sacred white elephants dies. It is given a funeral grander than that accorded to princes of royal blood. Buddhist priests officiate, and thousands of devout Siamese men and women follow the deceased animal to the grave. Jewels and offerings representing some thousands of dollars are buried with the elephant.

# How Ironclads Have Displaced Wooden Men-o'-war; Evolution of the Modern Sea Fighting Machine



AT the bombardment of Sevastopol, Oct. 17, 1854, it was clearly demonstrated that the old time wooden line of battle ships were helpless under the shell fire of the Russian forts. It became evident that unless some means of protection could be devised ships could no longer hope to attack with any chance of success shore batteries provided with shell guns. Out of this grew the invention of the ironclad.

DURING the year 1855 a number of what were called "floating batteries" were built in England and France. These were really the forerunners of the armored vessels, the ironclads of today. The vessels were sheathed with four inches of wood, with a bullet proof iron shelter for the helmsman. Three of the French batteries arrived in the Black sea in time to take part in the attack on Kinburn in October, 1855.

THE French commander in chief at Kinburn in a report to the emperor said, "Everything may be expected of these formidable engines of war." Although each of the three vessels was struck sixty or seventy times, the only casualties occurred through shot and splinters entering through the ports. The value of the armor on fighting ships was proved, and in 1860 the celebrated French ship Gloire was launched.

THE Gloire was followed by the launching in the early part of 1861 of the armor clad frigate Warrior for the English navy. She was built entirely of iron, but was only armored for two-thirds of her length, her bow and stern being unprotected. During the next five years a number of armored ships were completed, some of which were built of iron with ram bows, which were then generally adopted for all ironclads.

IT was during the civil war in the United States that was fought the first engagement between two armored vessels. It was the memorable conflict in Hampton Roads between the Confederate armor clad Merrimac and Captain Ericsson's Monitor, the first example of a war vessel with a turret. This fight settled for all time the much mooted question of "broadside versus turret" in favor of the turret.

SOME time later it was demonstrated that the ram might be one of the most formidable weapons in naval warfare when the Italian armored frigate Re d'Italia was sunk at the battle of Lissa on July 26, 1866, by the Austrian flagship Ferdinand Max. The introduction of rifled guns also marked a turning point in the history of the navy. The rifle came after the introduction of armor, which smoothbores could not pierce.

THEN came the era of steel ships. The latest group of battleships to be built for the United States navy are known as the Connecticut type. They are the Vermont, Kansas and Minnesota. The displacement has been raised steadily, that of the Connecticut type being 16,000 tons. The length over all is 456 feet 4 inches. This trio will all be fitted as flagships and will be the most powerful fighting machines in the world.

# Balkan Revolt and Its Menace to the Peace of Europe; The Dream of a "Larger Bulgaria" That Promises to Come True

THE present uprising in Macedonia and Albania, the threatened outbreak in Bulgaria and the recent hints of an alliance between Bulgaria and Serbia are signs ominous to the peace of Europe. They indicate that the long threatened war in the Balkans cannot be much longer averted. The "lid of hell" as that portion of the world has been rather graphically called, is about to be pulled off. At any rate, that is the uneasy feeling the statesmen of "the powers" have on the subject, and if their premonitions cannot be trusted then there is no faith to be placed in political barometers of any kind whatsoever.

It may be said in passing, that if the aforesaid powers had not been so timid or avaricious, or both, the standing disgrace of Turkish barbarism and misrule in the Balkan country would have been ended long ago. But there was Russia to be dealt with, and she wanted the entire peninsula. So what between the Slav appetite for land and the Moslem appetite for taxes and Christian blood the poor Bulgarians, with their dream of national independence in a "larger Bulgaria," were in a bad way indeed.

To gain an intelligent understanding of the Balkan situation it is necessary to make incursions into ancient history. It is well to bear in mind at the outset that the present uprising, so far as developed, most immediately affects the Bulgarians. These are not confined to the country known by their name, but are also in Macedonia, Bulgaria, including as it does eastern Roumelia, is nominally independent, but is really under the Turkish yoke. Macedonia is not even nominally independent.

When the Turks overran the entire Balkan peninsula in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries there was but one



little country they did not succeed in conquering, that of Montenegro. The Montenegrins are really Serbs. The people, always few in number, fled into the inaccessible mountain strongholds when Serbia came under the Moslem yoke. Gradually, however, they were forced to pay tribute to the Turk, until in 1793 there was an uprising, and every Mussulman that would not be bap-

tized was massacred. After this there was incessant warfare, but through it all Montenegro retained her independence. It was an unwritten law in the old days that if any Montenegrin should turn his back in flight to a Turk he should be dressed as a woman, whipped by the women and driven out of the country forever. Every man and boy still carries rifle and pistols.

A native proverb says, "You might as well take from me my brother as my rifle." The women have the same unconquerable spirit. When the Montenegrins and Albanians fought against the Turks at one time the women carried the mutilated bodies of their loved ones among the combatants to fire the survivors to deeds of greater valor. It was not until 1804 that Serbia, un-

der Black George, an ancestor of the present king, succeeded after a terrific struggle in gaining her independence. The wars were continued, both under George and under Milosch, the founder of the Obrenovitch dynasty, to which the assassinated Alexander belonged. Serbia, however, kept her freedom.

The growth of the national spirit among the Balkan peoples was due in

great measure to the appearance among them of a number of able historians, who succeeded by telling the story of the martial deeds of old in stirring a heroic spirit and a love of country. This led, in addition to Serbian freedom, to the formation of Roumania from a union of the old Wallachia and Moldavia. These people had never been entirely subjugated by the Turks, but had been virtually under the suzerainty of the porte at various times and did not succeed in achieving complete independence until late in the nineteenth century.

The most far reaching change in Balkan affairs came with the revolt of the Herzegovines, aided by the Montenegrins and Servians, in 1875. This rebellion the porte was unable to quell, and Turkish temper grew so bad in consequence that when there appeared signs of uneasiness among the Bulgarians a year or two later the frightful massacres occurred that shocked all Christendom. In one town containing at least 9,000 inhabitants men, women and children were slaughtered by the millions of the porte until not 2,000 remained. This unspeakable atrocity served in the end to break its perpetrators. In 1878 came the Russo-Turkish war, and following that the treaty of Berlin, which assured for all time the independence of Serbia, Montenegro and Roumania, gave Herzegovina and Bosnia to Austria and brought about the semi-independence of a part of Bulgaria.

The worst injustice permitted by the Berlin conference was in this very Bulgarian affair. The country was divided into three parts—Bulgaria proper and eastern Roumelia, which were made nominally free, and Macedonia, which remained under the Moslem heel. It was in the power of the conference to have united them and given them absolute independence. In the event that it had performed this duty the present trouble could not have occurred. But Rus-

sia had her eye on Bulgaria, and to have given that country complete national freedom would not have accorded with Slavic plans. By securing Herzegovina and Bosnia Austria was led to side with the war, the other nations were given enough to satisfy them in the deal, and a sore spot was left in the Balkans that may yet have to be cauterized by a general European war.

Subsequent to the Berlin treaty the two provinces of Bulgaria and eastern Roumelia have united, although the union was only consummated over the bitter protest of Russia. The country is still subject to the Turkish tax-gatherer, however, who takes practically all that the peasants make, subjects their families to outrage and generally tyrannizes over them.

The Macedonian massacres of a few years ago are still fresh in the public mind. The bitterness engendered at that time led to the formation of the revolutionary committees that have charge of the present projected revolution. It also served to draw closer together the Christian element in all the Balkan states.

The present outbreak, however, is directed not alone against the porte. The growing fear of Russian domination has fallen like a great shadow over the Balkan states, and this war is seemingly timed so that the bear can not interfere to fasten his own yoke on the Balkan shoulders when the Moslem collar is taken off. In fact, Russia's recent notice to Bulgaria not to undertake a rebellion at this time shows the Slav animus. But the rebellion is practically on. The Macedonians and Albanians are in active if desultory revolt, the Bulgarians and Servians give signs of having come to an understanding, and a concerted movement of the Balkan states and provinces for the freedom of all of them, both from Turkey and from Russia, seems to be assured in the not distant future.

HERBERT T. THRESHTON.